

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image communication system in which an image processing apparatus and a first portable phone can communicate data with each other and the first portable
5 phone can communicate a call with a second portable phone via a telephone line and the first portable phone sends an image data reduction instruction to the image processing apparatus, wherein

the image processing apparatus includes:

10 an instruction receiving device for receiving the image data reduction instruction sent from the first portable phone;

a data quantity reducing device for reducing a data quantity of image data according to the image data reduction
15 instruction received by the instruction receiving device;
and

a first image data transmitting device for transmitting, to the first portable phone, the image data of which the data quantity is reduced by the data quantity
20 reducing device and

the first portable phone includes:

an image data receiving device for receiving the image data sent from the first image data transmitting device of the image processing apparatus; and

25 a second image data transmitting device for transmitting via the telephone line the image data received by the image data receiving device.

2. An image communication system according to claim 1,
wherein the data quantity reducing device conducts at least
either one of re-size processing of an image represented by
image data, data compression processing of image data, and
5 bit thinning-out processing to delete low-order bits of
image data.

3. An image communication system according to claim 1,
wherein

the image processing apparatus further includes an
10 input device for inputting an image data reduction
instruction and

the data quantity reducing device of the image
processing apparatus conducts image data reduction
processing according to at least either one of an image data
15 reduction instruction inputted from the input device and an
image data reduction instruction received by the instruction
receiving device.

4. An image communication system according to claim 3,
wherein

20 the image processing apparatus further includes a
device for setting a transmission mode of image data,

the first image data transmitting device of the image
processing apparatus transmits image data to the first
portable phone when the transmission mode is set, and

25 the image data quantity reduction processing is
executed, when the transmission mode is set, according to an
image data reduction instruction received by the instruction

receiving device.

5. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein:

the first portable phone includes

5 a reduction ratio receiving device for receiving data representing a reduction ratio sent from the second portable phone via the telephone line, and

a reduction ratio transmitting device for transmitting, to the image processing apparatus, the
10 reduction ratio data received by the reduction ratio receiving device;

the image processing apparatus further includes a reduction ratio data receiving device for receiving the reduction ratio data transmitted from the reduction ratio
15 transmitting device of the first portable phone; and

the data quantity reducing device reduces image data according to a reduction ratio associated with the reduction ratio data received by the reduction ratio data receiving device.

20 6. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

at least one of the first portable phone and the image processing apparatus includes detecting means for detecting a data communication speed on the telephone line, and

25 the data quantity reducing device of the image processing apparatus increases a quantity of data reduction when a slower communication speed is detected by the

detecting means.

7. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

the first portable phone includes a mode notifying device for notifying modes available in the first portable phone, the modes including an image data transmission mode, and

the first portable phone transmits, when the image data transmission mode is selected from the modes notified by the mode notifying device, the image data reduction instruction to the image processing apparatus.

8. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

the image processing apparatus includes an image data recording device for compressing image data received and for recording the image data compressed on a recording medium and

the image data quantity reducing device reduces the data quantity of image data by compressing the image data according to a compression ratio higher than a compression ratio used to compress data in the recording of the data on the recording medium.

9. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

the image processing apparatus includes an image data recording device for compressing image data received and for recording the image data compressed on a recording medium

and

the image data quantity reducing device compresses data in a method different from a data compression method employed in the recording of the image data on the recording medium.

10. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

the image data of which the data quantity is to be reduced is associated with thumb-nail data,

the first image transmitting device of the image processing apparatus transmits the thumb-nail image data when the data quantity of the image data after the reduction of image data by the data quantity reducing means is in the vicinity of a data quantity of the thumb-nail image data.

11. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

the first portable phone further includes a device for transmitting a transmission instruction of image data for printout to the image processing apparatus,

the image processing apparatus includes:

a device for receiving the print image data transmission instruction transmitted from the first portable phone; and

control means for terminating the data quantity reduction processing by the image data quantity reducing device in response to reception of the print image data transmission instruction and for transmitting the image data

before the data quantity reduction processing to the first portable phone.

12. An image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

5 the first portable phone includes a print mode setting device for setting a print mode in which a printer produces printout of an image and

the image processing apparatus includes an image data converting device for converting, when a print mode is set
10 by the first portable phone, the image data to be transmitted to the first portable phone into data suitable for an output format of the printer.

13. An image communication system in which an image processing apparatus and a portable phone can communicate
15 data with each other and the portable phone sets a print mode to produce printout of an image by a printer, wherein:

the image processing apparatus includes

an image data converting device for converting, when the print mode is set by the portable phone, image data into
20 data suitable for an output format of the printer and

a first transmitting device for transmitting, to the portable phone, the image data converted by the image data converting device; and

the portable phone includes:

25 receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from the first transmitting device of the image processing apparatus, and

a second transmitting device for transmitting via the telephone line the image data received by the receiving device.

14. An image processing apparatus constituting an image communication system in which the image processing apparatus can communicate data with a portable phone, comprising:

an instruction receiving device for receiving an image data reduction instruction sent from the portable phone;

a data quantity reducing device for reducing a data quantity of image data according to the image data reduction instruction received by the instruction receiving device; and

an image data transmitting device for transmitting, to the portable phone, the image data of which the data quantity is reduced by the data quantity reducing device.

15. An image processing apparatus constituting an image communication system in which the image processing apparatus can communicate data with a portable phone, comprising:

an image data converting device for converting, when a print mode is set by the portable phone, image data into data suitable for an output format of a printer; and

a transmitting device for transmitting, to the portable phone, the image data converted by the image data converting device.

16. An image processing method for use with an image processing apparatus constituting an image communication system in which the image processing apparatus can

communicate data with a portable phone, comprising the steps of:

receiving an image data reduction instruction sent from the portable phone;

5 reducing a data quantity of image data according to the image data reduction instruction received; and

transmitting, to the portable phone, the image data of which the data quantity is reduced.

17. An image processing method for use with an image
10 processing apparatus constituting an image communication system in which the image processing apparatus can communicate data with a portable phone, comprising the steps of:

converting, when a print mode is set by the portable
15 phone, image data into data suitable for an output format of a printer; and

transmitting the image data converted to the portable phone.